Agenda Paper on Centre-State Relations

2091. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJAPYEE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has prepared any 'agenda paper' on Centre-State relations to meet the legitimate aspirations of the States;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to bring it up for discussion with various political parties; and

(c) whether Government will also consider eliciting public opinion on the aforesaid 'agenda paper'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MODH. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). No such agenda paper has been prepared. It may, however, be mentioned that the Inter-State Council is, at present, considering the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations. The Sub-Committee constituted by the Inter-State Council has so far considered 190 out of 247 recommendations made by the Sarkaria Commission. The Government proposes to appoint a High Level Committee to review and update the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission.

[Translation]

Unearthing of LPG Gang

2092. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have unearthed a gang earning crores of rupees in the name of providing gas connections and distribution dealerships;

(b) if so, the number of persons arrested and the action taken against them; and

(c) the steps taken to check such illegal activities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MODH. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). As per provisions contained in the Seventh Schedule to the constitution of India, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects and, therefor, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime, including the crime relation to 'illegal activities in LPG Gas', is primarily the responsibility of the State Government.

Seizures of Wildlife Products

2093. SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some skins and other wildlife products were recently seized at Kishanganj Railway Station in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received such reports from other States during the last one year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the culprits and to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The staff of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Delhi seized a consignment of 11 leopard skins at Kishan Ganj Railway Station on April 3, 1996. The consignment had originated from Beharmpur, Orissa but it did not have any address of the consignor of consignee. The case has been taken up with the Railway authorities as well as Wildlife authorities in Orissa.

(c) and (d). This Ministry does not collate and compile the details of seizures of wildlife parts and products made by all the States. However, details of important seizures, as reported by some of the States in the last one year as well as seizure made through the Regional Deputy Directors of Wildlife of this Ministry located at Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai and Madras are given in the statement enclosed. Action against the offenders in these cases is taken under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Customs Act, 1962 and other related laws.

(e) The steps taken to control smuggling of wildlife products includes :

(i) Hunting of wild animals included in Schedules I to IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, has been banned by law.

(ii) Special measures for protection and conservation of tiger, elephants and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.

(iii) A network of 441 wildlife sancturaries and 80 national parks covering 1,48,000 sq. km. has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of national parks and sanctuaries on request from the State Governments.

(iv) This Ministry has set up a National Coordination committee consisting of representative of all major enforcement organisations such as: Customs, Revenue intelligence, CBI, Police, BSF, ITBP, RPF and foreign Post Office, Traffic-India and Wildlife authorities to enable effective inter-departmental cooperation and coordination to deal with the problem of illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

(v) Training programmes on enforcement and implementation of wildlife and other related laws and international conventions have been organised for all the enforcement agencies in February and November, 1995.